

that it should have been the *best* and the *most complete* in the world. Our position, soil, and climate are all admirably fitted for the attainment of this object; all we wanted was money.

There are gentlemen in this room who can bear me out in what I say. However, a live jackass is better than a dead lion, any day; so, *faute de mieux*, let us do what we can to instruct those who wish to learn how to make good butter. I'll do what I can towards it.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I say, with much regret, that I am fully aware that I have read you a long, dull, heavy paper; but I must ask you to pardon this, and make up for my shortcomings by a good discussion. I have given you plenty to talk about, as I know there is much to criticise in my remarks.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

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CLYDESDALE HORSES.

The interest which has been attached to the improvement of horse breeding in this province, and especially in the different breeds of heavy draught horses, induces us to believe that a short historical and descriptive account of these breeds may prove interesting to our readers.

The engraving which we give of a Clydesdale in this number is taken from Sidney's Book of the horse, and is an excellent representation of the stallion and mare of the breed.—They take their name from the valley of the River Clyde, in Lanarkshire, Scotland. The early history of the breed is traced by nearly all writers to six coach stallions, imported from Flanders towards the close of the seventeenth century, by the Duke of Hamilton. (1)

The correctness of this tradition is however strongly denied by a writer in the Paisley Advertiser, dated March 9th, 1827. This breed is not now confined to Lanarkshire or Clydesdale. In fact, the best Clydesdales are not bred in that county, but are to be found in nearly all the well cultivated counties in Scotland. It may be said, however, that it is only within the past thirty years that any special attention has been paid to the breeding of them, and even to-day it is impossible to get a pedigree, of a mare especially, for more than two or three generations; for the simple reason that, while the mares have always been selected to breed from, yet they have been selected for individual merits and points of excellence more than for pedigree, and even yet, a good individual mare, or horse, will command the highest price irrespective of pedigree.

Within the past thirty years, more attention has been paid to the selection of the stallion, but individual points invariably determined the selection; nor could it well be otherwise, where no register was kept, and where the introduction of foreign blood not only was not objected to, but was considered an advantage. It is a well known fact that some of the best Clyde-horses in Scotland, to-day, derive many of their good points from the blood of the English draught or Shire mares. (2)

It is also well known that some of the most noted breeders in Scotland are in the habit of importing shire-mares and crossing them with the best horses in the country, and in this way produce horses which in many respects are improvements on what may be considered as pure Clydesdales. If we compare the Clyde as described by Brown in 1830, with the same

(1) Gray in colour, generally, and, according to contemporary authors, much desired by ladies for their coaches. Hence the proverb: "The gray mare is the better horse." A. R. J. F.

(2) *Shire*.—As Bedfordshire, Leicestershire, as distinguished from Kent, Surrey, Sussex. A. R. J. F.

breed of the present day we shall better understand the transformation which new blood and better care have produced. He says, "The Clydesdale horse is lighter in body than the Suffolk Punch, and more elegantly formed in every respect, with an equal proportion of bone. His neck is also longer; his head of a finer form, and more corresponding to the bulk of the animal: he has a sparkling and animated eye, and evinces a greater degree of lively playfulness in his general manners than either the Cleveland or Suffolk horses. His limbs are clean, straight, sinewy: the head of this horse is firm and nimble: he is capable of great muscular exertion, and in a hilly country is extremely valuable; he is a very hardy animal, and can subsist on almost any kind of food.

The equanimity of his temper and steadiness of his movements particularly adapt him for the plough. Not being too unwieldy in his size he is no burden to the soil, while a pair are equal to the task of drawing a plough through a full furrow with great ease. The horses of Clydesdale are not only celebrated on account of their value for agricultural purposes, but are also adapted for the saddle and useful as carriage horses."

Few who are familiar with the Clydesdales of the present day would recognize the breed in the "fine head," "clean, straight, sinewy limbs" and his "adaptability for the saddle and carriage," in the animal above described. It is scarcely necessary to say that the fine head has given way to one of rather large if not heavy proportions as compared with the Percheron, although a small clean head is occasionally met with in some families, as, for instance, in the produce of the "Prince of Wales," and in their progeny. While the mare still retains the neck long and somewhat fine, as a rule, the stallion's neck is thick and the crest heavy. The length of body and legs ascribed to the breed by several authors has given way to remarkably short, strong, hairy legs, and to compact backs with wide chest and quarters. He still retains his light, free action, and is often found to trot with great speed, when his weight is considered, as stated in the Book of the Horse: "At a local show held some years ago on Clifton Downs, near Bristol, a Clydesdale stallion exhibited by the Duke of Beaufort, weighing nearly a ton, out-trotted all the hacks in the show in a course of a few hundred yards."

It will thus be seen that the Clydesdale horse of 1830 was a very different animal from the so-called Clydesdale of to-day. This change has been brought about, not by the importation of stallions of larger breeds, but by the importation of large shire mares, from England, which, being crossed with the hardy constitutioned, free actioned, Scotch horse, produced stallions retaining the good qualities of the native with the increase in size and shorter bodies of the English cart horse.

The Clydesdale of to-day may be described as a powerful draught horse, of a bay, brown, black, grey or chestnut colour, (excellent specimens of the breed are found in all of these colours) with a disposition to white, especially on the face and legs, usually about sixteen to sixteen and a half hands high, weighing from 1600 lbs. to 2200 lbs. The head proportionate to the size and weight of the body; usually well set on, sometimes long and often Roman nosed, with long hairs hanging from under the jaws, which are usually wide. The forehead is wide, and the eyes large and prominent. The neck is of medium length, and in the stallion, the crest is heavy. The back, in good specimens, is short, compact, and the barrel round and "well ribbed up." The withers high, but the shoulder thick. The chest broad and deep; the quarters wide; sometimes sloping and the tail set on low down compared with lighter breeds. The thighs are muscular, hooks large, legs straight and short, muscles of the thighs and fore arms well developed. The legs wide, flat, the tendons hard and clean; the legs covered by long fine hair, very thick